

Summer
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Quick Strokes

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Barbara Blackburn crashes the Guinness Book of World Records

"Mrs. Barbara Blackburn of Lee's Summit, Missouri, has sustained speeds of 170 w.p.m. using the Dvorak Simplified Keyboard (D.S.K.) system." In these words the Giant 1967 Edition of the Guinness Book of World Records acknowledges the preeminence of the world's fastest secretary. This champion's performances over all distances supersede all the records that are cited in Guinness and all that Quick Strokes knows of except Lenore Fenton MacClain's 182 words in one minute.

To the question "How long can she sustain that pace?" Guinness makes no reply at all and Quick Strokes can only say, "Longer than any other secretary." We do know that she holds her error rate below two per cent of strokage at all paces.

Mrs. Blackburn's cruising speed of 150 to 160 words a minute is her chief claim to fame. It means that on reasonable notice and with a brief warmup, she can turn out 37,500 keystrokes in an optimum 50-minute hour, under observation, and, after a break, resume the pace.

Does your organization hold conferences, conventions, or seminars with an equipment exhibit? Do you want an eye-opening performance in a booth sponsored by a leading manufacturer? Then call Philip Davis at 916-446-3377. This is the best way we know to put all the connections together.

For standardization documents

Write to W. F. Hanrahan, ANS Committee X4, CBEMA, 1828 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Ask for documents by number. Numbers X4/DSK/76-6, -7, -8, -9, -10, and -11 are of interest. No charge.

Baker for school board! Baker for for Iowa State Senate!

Quality education and quality legislation are themes for Gerald Baker's campaigns for the offices of Cedar Falls School Board member and Iowa state senator. Frequent reference to the Simplified arrangement for alphanumeric keyboards is made in his speeches and releases.

Besides running for the two offices -- in itself an innovative move in the Iowa Third Congressional District -- Mr. Baker chairs the district Eugene McCarthy-for-president committee. This committee has engaged a booth at the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress, and if we know Baker, there will be a typewriter in the booth with a Simplified arrangement.

The Simplified arrangement is not a dragged-in issue, even though, to the best of our knowledge, the better keyboard is acceptable in regular typing classes in Cedar Falls and Waterloo as elsewhere and acceptable also on civil service at all levels. What Baker, like all of us with hands-on experience at a Simplified board, would like to see is whole classrooms full of students at Simplified keyboards, all learning at twice the pace of students on the old arrangement and all attaining competence. This would be quality education in one subject, and the easy acquisition of typing skill would improve student performance in other subjects as well.

Contributions to the Baker or McCarthy campaigns will be gratefully received and acknowledged if they are mailed to Baker's home address, 2410 College St., Cedar Falls, Iowa 30613.

Agnes Henault, distinguished operator, dies at age 78

Agnes Henault, who died in June, 1976, at San Rafael, California, was another secretary who, also using a Simplified keyboard, could, until her health began to fail, have given Barbara Blackburn a good workout.

In response to "Do you take live dictation on the typewriter?" Miss Henault replied, "Yes, always. Most bosses do not dictate at any more than eighty words a minute, and for a secretary who cruises at 100 or more, the dictation pace is easy."

Miss Henault switched in mid career, with good jobs behind her and good recommendations to back her up. At about that time, she secured her B.A. degree at Columbia University, "instead of my M R S," she used to say.

She changed jobs several times, for professional advancement. It was her policy to get the job first and, at the conclusion of the interview, mention that she expected to provide her own typewriter. The new boss would ask, naturally, "Why?" and after the new secretary's explanation, the next words would be, "Why, yes! In, that case, of course! By all means!"

Eventually, she went into business for herself, first at free-lance typing, on legal and statistical copy, at good rates, and later at teaching, under the name of Stenotype Workshop, in the Wurltizer Building, on 42nd St., Manhattan.

She did train two Simplified-arrangement typists. One was an ex-service man who wanted the quickest route to a steady, full-time, permanent job. She taught him Simplified, he took a federal Civil Service examination, went right to work, and may be out of typing and into administration by now. The other was Al Pereira, of Brooklyn, who was between two stints as editor of Construction Equipment magazine.

She is survived by a sister, Rae Morrock, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and two brothers, Dr. Carl K. Pearlman, of Santa Ana, California, and Sam Pearlman, of San Rafael.

She had moved to the West Coast with the firm intention of resuming her teaching of Simplified typing.

Word Processing World features Lesson 1 for a new operator on a Simplified keyboard

For a brief and perceptive treatment of the Simplified arrangement for alphanumeric keyboards, from the point of view of a beginning retrainee, see Word Processing World, July-August, 1976, page 62, article titled "Training on a Simplified Keyboard," by Esther Davidowitz.

The publisher of WPW is Geyer-McAllister, 51 Madison Ave., New York, New York 10010, and the subscription price is \$7 a year, six issues. It is only in Volume 3, and the libraries that have it are in Canada or in Washington, D. C.

Miss Davidowitz did the logical thing for a writer with an assignment to investigate Simplified typing -- she located a teacher and took a lesson. She reports that, yes, she did strike some holdover errors, at the beginning of Lesson 1 in the Simplified Keyboard Supplement.

Somewhere in that lesson, however, she was struck by an inspiration. Howard Hudson, the swiftest of the swift on transcription of machine shorthand, may wear his laurels in comfort for some time to come, but if she wants to snatch them, who is to say she won't ever be able to?

Morton method sets the pace in operator pretraining for Simplified equipment

Project leaders who want their operators pretrained or who want a rapid method for pretraining or retraining are referred to R. E. Morton Associates, 1109 W. Pratt Blvd., Chicago, IL 60626, telephone 312-973-3428. Quick Strokes has observed a Morton Method class and has seen a trainee with thirty hours of instruction, from scratch, typing at 45 words a minute. The trainee is Mark Novota, 14 years of age and an apt pupil who, however, makes no claims of special talent. Another trainee, Denise Griffin, is hot on Mark's heels.

The Morton method is sold in a kit, which any instructor with supervisory qualifications should be able to use with similar results. With the speediest keyboard and the quickest training both so readily available, the personnel

problem in word processing and other applications ceases to be formidable.

Message to pretrained operators on Simplified and student operators on Simplified

An application of the Simplified arrangement for alphanumeric keyboards is under way or in abeyance or planned or contemplated at the following offices that we know of. Others may come to our attention from time to time.

Two Bell System locations

- A large West Coast bank
- A large West Coast insurance company
- A large East Coast publisher
- A good-sized Maine insurance company
- A Pennsylvania printing plant
- A Virginia printing plant
- A Tennessee university
- An Oregon university

The New Jersey research affiliate of a large oil company

Some of the project leaders have tried "hiring off the street" and have found that "it doesn't work out", which probably means that their internal training program is deficient. What they want is operators with at least a little pretraining on Simplified.

Some of the vacancies are in word processing, and they all should lead to

it. Operator jobs in word processing pay \$200 more a month than pool typing, and the job is not a cul de sac. Word processing is burgeoning, and fast and accurate input -- your specialty -- is at a premium.

Even if you are too young to get a work permit, or even if you are in graduate school with your heart set on a learned profession, please make out a resume and mail it to one of the following:


- Belmont Adams, 4 Park Ave., RD 1,
Scarborough, Maine 04074
- Barry Traver, 552 Seville St.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19128
- Gerald Baker, 2410 College St.,
Cedar Falls, Iowa 30613
- R. E. Morton, 1129 W. Pratt Blvd.,
Chicago, Illinois 60626
- Philip Davis, P. O. Box 643,
West Sacramento, California 95691

For equipment

Write to Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc., Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691, or call Davis at 916-446-3377.

To subscribe to Quick Strokes

Send five dollars to Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691. We are quarterly. This pays one year.

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Nonprofit, incorporated civic association is projected

Operators, users, makers, and teachers of Simplified keyboarded equipment and dealers who may handle it are feeling a need for an organization to coordinate activities around the better arrangement.

Mr. Waldo T. Boyd, writer of the Science Service release of June 5, 1966, which ran in so many daily newspapers on that day or the next, would be glad to hear from interested persons. (The Boyd article ran under various headlines. The title of the release is "Space Age Typewriter Keyboard Awaits Adoption.") The Boyd address is Box 86, Geyserville, California 95541.

Nomenclature should be standardized by consensus and not by fiat. The late Prof. August Dvorak preferred simply "Simplified" for all acceptable variants. IBM recognizes "Dvorak" for all variants and pretends they have never heard of a Simplified arrangement. SCM recommends a variant called "ASK" and regards the classic Dvorak layout

as something special. Some companies are claiming "simplicity" or even "simplification" for arrangements which are none other than the cumbersome traditional q, w, e, r, t, y.

An association could coordinate training and placement of operators. As it is, learners equip themselves and train themselves or else equip themselves and then look for a teacher. The National Shorthand Reporters' Association maintains a list of approved schools offering machine shorthand. A Dvorak Simplified Keyboard Association, under that name or some other, could proceed similarly.

For information on the Dvorak Simplified arrangement for alphanumeric keyboards

Send one dollar to Levine Books, Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691 for Quick Strokes 3, plus the pamphlet Typing and Improved Academic Performance, plus price list of books and back issues of Quick Strokes.